

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Entry of the above amendments is courteously requested in order to place all claims in this application in allowable condition and/or to place the non-allowed claims in better condition for consideration on appeal.

The Examiner's rejections will be considered in the order of their occurrence in the Office Action.

Paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Office Action

Claims 1 through 4, 12 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Schley.

Claims 1 through 4, 12 and 15 have been cancelled, and therefore the §102(b) rejection of claims 1 through 4, 12 and 15 is submitted to be moot..

Paragraph 3 of the Office Action

Paragraph 3 of the Office Action states that claims 5 through 11, 13 and 14 would be allowable if written into independent form with the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 5, 7, 10, 13 and 14 have been written into independent form, and are therefore submitted to be in condition for allowance.

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE:

In the Claims (bracketed parts deleted and underlined parts added):

Cancel claims 1 through 4.

5. (Twice Amended) A separable container apparatus [as described in claim 2,] comprising:

containers each having an open top, a bottom wall, and a peripheral side wall assembly securely attached to and extending upwardly from said bottom wall, said containers being detachably connected to one another to essentially form a single structure having a plurality of storage compartments; lids being removably attached to any combination of attached said containers; and

said containers being detachably attached to one another to form a combined collective container structure having a cylindrical exterior shape;

wherein said peripheral side wall assembly of each said container includes a first side wall, a second side wall, and a third side wall, each of said first and second side walls having a top edge and a bottom edge;

wherein each of said containers includes an elongate first flange member securely attached to an exterior of said first side wall and extending along a length of said top edge thereof, and also includes a first recessed portion disposed in said first side wall and extending along a length of said bottom edge thereof, and further includes a first slot disposed in said first recessed portion and extending the length of said bottom edge.

6. (Pending) A separable container apparatus as described in claim 5, wherein each said elongate first flange member includes a first portion extending outwardly generally perpendicular of a respective said first side wall, and also includes a second portion being integrally attached to

said first portion and being angled relative to said first portion and being disposed downwardly.

7. (Twice Amended) A separable container apparatus [as described in claim 2,] comprising:

containers each having an open top, a bottom wall, and a peripheral side wall assembly securely attached to and extending upwardly from said bottom wall, said containers being detachably connected to one another to essentially form a single structure having a plurality of storage compartments; lids being removably attached to any combination of attached said containers; and

said containers being detachably attached to one another to form a combined collective container structure having a cylindrical exterior shape;

wherein said peripheral side wall assembly of each said container includes a first side wall, a second side wall, and a third side wall, each of said first and second side walls having a top edge and a bottom edge;

wherein each of said containers further includes a second slot disposed in an exterior of said second wall and extending along a length of said top edge thereof and being adapted to receive said first flange member of another said container, and also includes an elongate second flange member being securely attached to an exterior of said second side wall and extending outwardly and along a length of said bottom edge thereof and being adapted to be received in said first recessed portion and said first slot of another said container.

8. (Pending) A separable container apparatus as described in claim 7, wherein each of said second slots is essentially angled and has a first portion which extends into said second wall and also has a second portion which is angled relative to said first portion and which is continuous of said first portion and which is disposed downwardly.

9. (Pending) A separable container apparatus as described in claim 8, wherein each said second flange member includes a first portion extending outwardly generally perpendicular of a respective said second side wall, and also includes a second portion being integrally attached to said first portion and being angled relative to said first portion and being disposed upwardly.

10. (Twice Amended) A separable container apparatus [as described in claim 1,] comprising:

containers each having an open top, a bottom wall, and a peripheral side wall assembly securely attached to and extending upwardly from said bottom wall, said containers being detachably connected to one another to essentially form a single structure having a plurality of storage compartments; lids being removably attached to any combination of attached said containers; and

said containers being detachably attached to one another to form a combined collective container structure having a cylindrical exterior shape;

wherein said lids include a first lid which is adapted to detachably fasten to all of said containers being attached to one another, and also includes a second lid which is adapted to detachably fasten to two of said containers being attached to one another, and further includes a third lid which is adapted to detachably fasten to one of said containers.

11. (Pending) A separable container apparatus as described in claim 10, wherein said first lid is circular shaped and fastenable about top edges of said third side walls to close upon said open tops of said containers.

12. (Twice Amended) A separable container apparatus as described in claim [1] 10, wherein each of said containers essentially represents 1/3 of said cylindrical structure.

13. (Twice Amended) A separable container apparatus [as described in claim 1,] comprising:

containers each having an open top, a bottom wall, and a peripheral side wall assembly securely attached to and extending upwardly from said bottom wall, said containers being detachably connected to one another to essentially form a single structure having a plurality of storage compartments; lids being removably attached to any combination of attached said containers; and

said containers being detachably attached to one another to form a combined collective container structure having a cylindrical exterior shape;

wherein two of said containers are detachably attached to one another to essentially form 2/3 of said cylindrical structure with said second lid having a plurality of edges and being adapted to fasten about said top edges of said third side walls of the two of said containers and about said top edge of said first side wall of one of said containers and about said top edge of said second side wall of the other of said containers, said edges of said second lid including a curved first edge, a straight second edge, and a straight third edge which is angled more than 90 degrees and less than 180 degrees relative to said second edge thereof.

14. (Twice Amended) A separable container apparatus [as described in claim 2,] comprising:

containers each having an open top, a bottom wall, and a peripheral side wall assembly securely attached to and extending upwardly from said bottom wall, said containers being detachably connected to one another to essentially form a single structure having a plurality of storage compartments; lids being removably attached to any combination of attached said containers; and

said containers being detachably attached to one another to form a combined collective container structure having a cylindrical exterior shape;

wherein said peripheral side wall assembly of each said container includes a first side wall, a second side wall, and a third side wall, each of said first and second side walls having a top edge and a bottom edge;

wherein said third lid has a plurality of edges and is adapted to fasten about said top edges of said first, second, and third side walls of one of said containers, said edges of said third lid including a curved first edge, a straight second edge, and a straight third edge which is angled more than 180 degrees and less than 270 degrees relative to said second edge thereof.


15. (Twice Amended) A separable container apparatus as described in claim [2] 14, wherein said third side walls are essentially curved, and said first and second side walls are essentially planar.

Cancel claims 16 and 17.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, early reconsideration and allowance of this application are most courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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